

## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 23, 2009. Claims 14, 15 and 30 to 33, of which all but Claim 31 are independent, are now pending in the application. The claims that have been withdrawn from further consideration have been cancelled herein merely to place the application in better form for allowance. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 6, 7, 14, 15, and 27 to 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,256,662 (Lo). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention relates to a scanner connection apparatus (e.g., 100) which is located between a scanner control apparatus (e.g., 500) and an image scanning device (e.g., 200). The scanner connection apparatus provides two basic functions. As one function, it receives selection image data from the control apparatus that is displayed on a touch-panel screen, and when the user designates an item on the touch panel screen, information specifying the item is transmitted to the control apparatus. This function enables issuance of a scanning start command for the image scanning device. As a second function, the connection apparatus functions as a local image scanner by outputting the start command to the scanner, receiving image data of an original obtained by the scanner, and transmits the image data to the control apparatus.

Referring specifically to the claims, Claim 14 is directed to a scanner connection apparatus comprising a first communication interface that connects to an image

scanning device, a second communication interface that connects to a control apparatus on a network, where the control apparatus has functions of setting a scanning condition and of communication with the image scanning device, a display unit having a screen that displays an image, a touch-sensitive panel arranged on the screen of the display unit; and a processor that controls the scanner connection apparatus, wherein, said display unit, said touch-sensitive panel and said processor configure a selection screen displaying unit for inputting a user instruction and for enabling to issue a scanning start command for the image scanning device, by, said processor receiving, from the control apparatus via said second communication interface, a selection image data having items to be selected by a user, said display unit displaying the received selection image data, said processor detecting a touch on said touch-sensitive panel by the user's operation, and said processor transmitting, via said second communication interface, information specifying an item designated by the user, to the control apparatus so that, based on a scanning start instruction issued by the user, a scanning start command is output to the image scanning device, wherein, said first communication interface, said second communication interface, said processor and the image scanning device connected to the first communication interface configure a unit which operates as a local image scanner of the control apparatus by said processor's operations of, outputting the scanning start command to the image scanning device via said first communication interface as a response to the scanning start instruction by the user, receiving image data of an original obtained by the image scanning device via said first communication interface, and transmitting the image data of the

original via said second communication interface so that the control apparatus receives the image data of the original.

Claim 15 is a method claim that substantially corresponds to Claim 14.

Claim 30 is along the lines of Claim 14, but is more specific to selecting a transmission destination via the touch panel display and then transmitting the image data of the original to the transmission destination. Claim 32 is a method claim that corresponds to Claim 30. Claim 33 is also along the lines of Claim 30, but includes additional features relating to different transmission categories.

The applied art of Lo is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 14, 15, 30, 32 and 33, and in particular is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the features of a scanner connection apparatus in which a display unit, a touch-sensitive panel and a processor configure a selection screen displaying unit for inputting a user instruction and for enabling to issue a scanning start command for the image scanning device, by, the processor receiving, from the control apparatus via the second communication interface, a selection image data having items to be selected by a user, the display unit displaying the received selection image data, the processor detecting a touch on the touch-sensitive panel by the user's operation, and the processor transmitting, via the second communication interface, information specifying an item designated by the user, to the control apparatus so that, based on a scanning start instruction issued by the user, a scanning start command is output to the image scanning device, and where a first communication interface, a second communication interface, the processor and the image scanning device connected to the first communication interface configure a unit which

operates as a local image scanner of the control apparatus by the processor's operations of, outputting the scanning start command to the image scanning device via the first communication interface as a response to the scanning start instruction by the user, receiving image data of an original obtained by the image scanning device via the first communication interface, and transmitting the image data of the original via the second communication interface so that the control apparatus receives the image data of the original.

Lo is merely seen to disclose that a scanner 144 is connected via an interface 140 to a server 130 and that server 130 is connected via an interface 120 to a client 102. In this context, scanner 144 may be seen to correspond to the image scanning device of the claims, server 130 may be seen to correspond to the connection apparatus of the claims, while client 102 may be seen to correspond to the control apparatus of the claims. Server 130, however, is not seen to teach the features of a scanner connection apparatus in which a display unit, a touch-sensitive panel and a processor configure a selection screen displaying unit for inputting a user instruction and for enabling to issue a scanning start command for the image scanning device, by, the processor receiving, from the control apparatus via the second communication interface, a selection image data having items to be selected by a user, the display unit displaying the received selection image data, the processor detecting a touch on the touch-sensitive panel by the user's operation, and the processor transmitting, via the second communication interface, information specifying an item designated by the user, to the control apparatus so that, based on a scanning start instruction issued by the user, a scanning start command is output

to the image scanning device, and where a first communication interface, a second communication interface, the processor and the image scanning device connected to the first communication interface configure a unit which operates as a local image scanner of the control apparatus by the processor's operations of, outputting the scanning start command to the image scanning device via the first communication interface as a response to the scanning start instruction by the user, receiving image data of an original obtained by the image scanning device via the first communication interface, and transmitting the image data of the original via the second communication interface so that the control apparatus receives the image data of the original.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 14, 15 and 30 to 33 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believe to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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